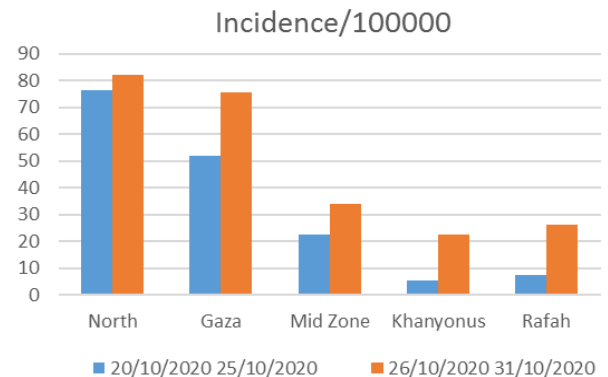
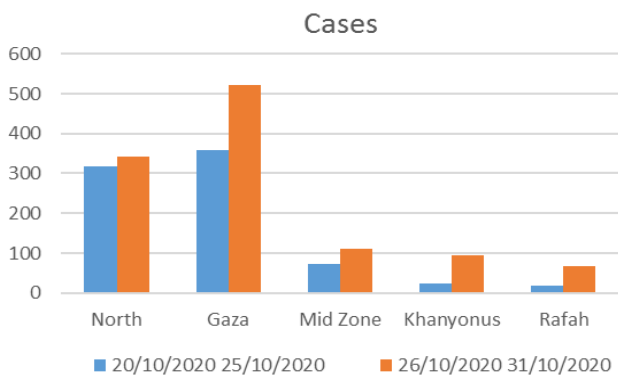


COVID-19 CASES IN GAZA STRIP

Weekly comparison from 20-25 to 26-31 October 2020

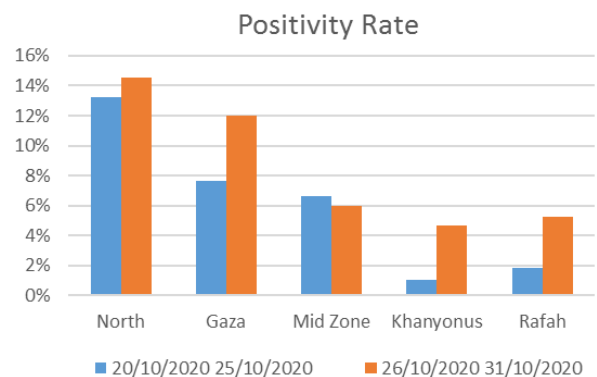
GENERAL

	Weekly cases		Cumulative	
	20-25 October	26-31 October	31 Jan-31 October	
# of samples tested	total	11,378	11,872	114,943
# of positive cases	total	792	1,136	6,730
	mild	781	1,129	
	moderate	2	0	
	severe	8	4	
	critical	1	1	
positivity rate	total	7.0%	9.6%	5.9%
	contacts	16.0%	22.0%	
	suspect	16.0%	20.0%	
	surveillance	2.0%	3.0%	



POSITIVITY RATE

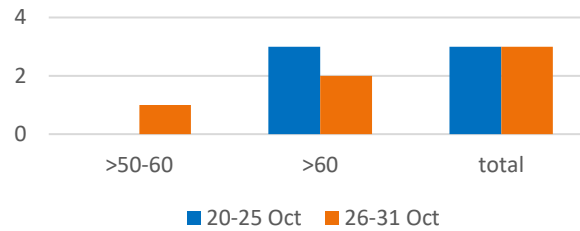
- The weekly positivity rate increased from 7% up to 10% without identified changes in testing approach. The positivity rate increased among the three main testing categories (from 16% to 22% among contacts, from 16% to 20% among suspected cases, and from 2% to 3% among cases detected through surveillance) reflecting the overall increase of community spread of COVID-19.
- The positivity rate increased in all 5 districts (except Mid Zone) but there was a noticeable increase in Khanyounis (from 1% to 5%) and in Rafah (from 2% to 5%). This reflects the detection of new nucleuses of COVID-19 at the southern governorates.
- The high positivity rate among contacts reflects limited control of isolation and quarantine for contacts in closed settings.



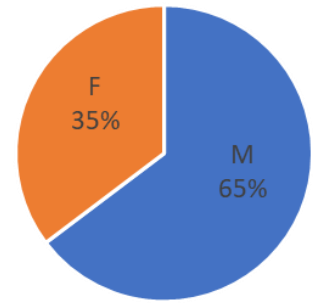
REPORTED DEATHS

- Three deaths were reported at each week. The following graphs present the total deaths per each week distributed by age groups and gender.

Distribution of deaths by period and age group



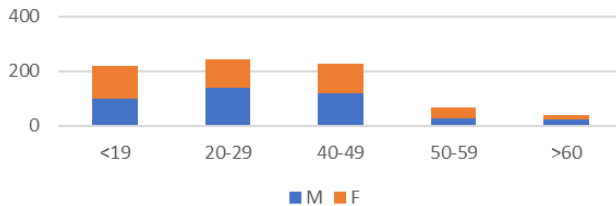
Deaths



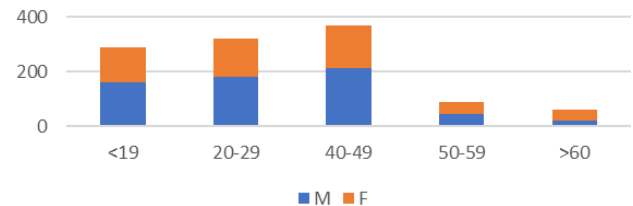
DISTRIBUTION OF CASES AMONG AGE GROUPS

- There is an increase in number of cases among all age groups, the most significant among older age groups (from 15 to 40) in above 60 years old especially among females, and from 65 to 95 among 50-60 years). This increase will have its effect on severe and critical cases.

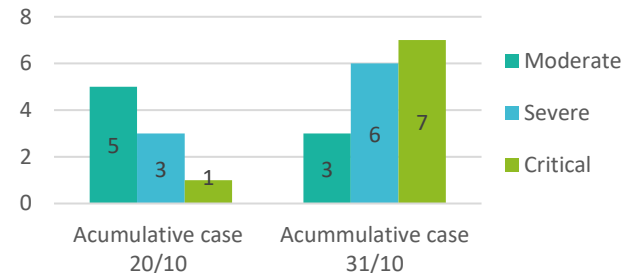
Gender/Age group
20-25 October 2020



Gender/Age group
26-31 October 2020



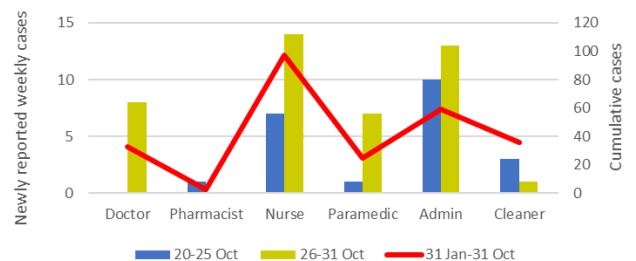
- The figure on the right presents the increase of cumulative severe and critical cases during the last two weeks.
- One important observation is the presence of 3 cases in ICU beds from younger age group (35-40 years) and this should be monitored during the coming weeks to see if there are any changes in the severity of infections.



INFECTIONS AMONG HEALTH CARE WORKERS

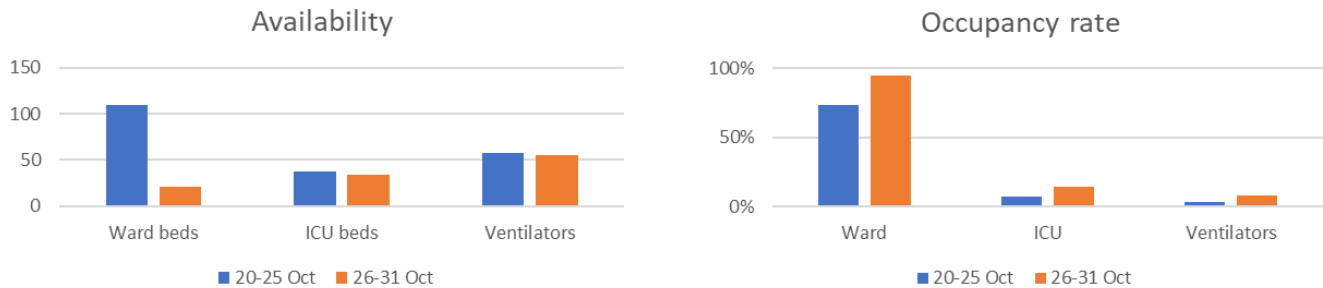
- There is a noticeable increase in number of reported COVID-19 infections among health workforce: from 22 in the week of 20-25 October, to 43 in the week of 26-31 October 2020, especially among nurses, paramedics and physicians.
- Also, there is a significant number of infections among non-health workers such as administrative staff.

Health Care Workers



HEALTH SYSTEM CAPACITY (COVID19 MANAGEMENT)

- There is a significant increase in bed occupancy rate from 73% on 25 October to 95% on 31 October, with the number of available beds decreasing from 110 to 21.
- Among available ICU beds, the occupancy rate increased from 7% to 14%.
- Among available ventilators, the occupancy rate increased from 3% to 8%.
- The health system tolerance capacity decreased from 67 days to 46 days. The MOH in Gaza consider the cutoff point of 30 days to reflect the health system as being overwhelmed.



RECOMMENDATIONS

- There is an increase in number of cases in all districts in the Gaza Strip. Particularly, the sharp increase in cases in Khanyonus and Rafah is alarming. More procedures should be placed and intensive community awareness should be conducted.
- There is an increase in infections among older age groups indicating the urgent need for further measures to protect these vulnerable populations and investigate the sources of the increase in infection.
- Increase monitoring on adherence of IPC measures at all health care settings and activate rapid detection and isolation of cases to prevent higher health care staff infections and also infecting vulnerable patients at hospitals and PHC settings.
- The tolerance of MOH ability to manage COVID19 cases is decreasing where it reached 46 days. MOH in Gaza consider the cutoff 30 days as an alarm for taking more serious mitigation measures; such as total lockdown which will affect negatively on the already deteriorated economic conditions at the Strip.